

Annotated Agenda

MAFAC Fall Meeting

September 23-25, 2014 · Silver Spring, MD

- 1. Agenda Item:** **Climate and Marine Resources Working Group**
- 2. Presenter:** Roger Griffis, Climate Change Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries
- 3. Objective/Purpose (Discussion/Action):** Establish a MAFAC Working Group to provide expert advice to MAFAC, and subsequently NOAA Leadership, on the production, delivery and use of climate-related information in fulfilling NOAA Fisheries mission activities.
- 4. Background/Synopsis:** Climate variability and change can have significant impacts on marine and coastal resources and the people, businesses and communities that depend on them. There is growing evidence of climate-related changes in ocean systems (e.g., rising ocean temperatures, levels and acidification) and according to the most recent [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Report](#) these changes are expected to continue with significant impacts on the availability of marine resources.

One of the major challenges facing marine resource managers is the understanding, planning for, and responding to climate-related impacts on marine ecosystems to meet management goals. Climate can affect marine ecosystem productivity and biodiversity, including the distribution, abundance, and phenology of fish stocks, protected species, and their habitats. These changes can in turn impact US fisheries and resource-dependent communities. With growing evidence of climate-related changes in the condition of US marine and coastal ecosystems, marine resource management agencies, resource dependent industries, communities and stakeholder groups, are asking for information on current and future conditions to help prepare for and respond to changing oceans. Communication and cooperation between these groups will be essential to understand the risks, reduce impacts, and increase the resilience of US marine resources and the people who depend on them.

Charge to MAFAC: To help NOAA Fisheries meet these needs for information and coordinated action, a MAFAC Climate and Marine Resources Working Group would act as a conduit for stakeholder input on how to increase the production, delivery, and use of climate-related information in marine resource management. By providing this input, the Working Group will assist NOAA to fulfill its marine stewardship mandates that include the consideration of changing environmental conditions and other factors on marine resources and marine resource dependent industries.

The Group's initial actions for consideration include:

- Review and provide input on the draft NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Plan (Fall 2014).
- Review and provide a national perspective on regional implementation of this Plan (Spring 2015).
- Help identify socioeconomic issues (community impacts) related to climate change and fisheries (Fall 2015 +).
- Other topics as needed to help the NOAA Fisheries Service fulfill its mission in a changing climate.

5. Options Listed from 1 to n: TBD

6. Preferred Recommendation: TBD

Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: